

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01

PRS-01 /109 W

-----190537Z 078087 /12

P R 180900Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9904

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 7588

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: US/ASEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 107627

JAKARTA 3966

SUMMARY: PATERNO HAS NOT YET DONE ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ORGANIZE OTHER ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTRIES' PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAA. AT ONE POINE HE SUGGESTED TO US THAT UNDERSECRETARY COOPER SEE THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS (AT THE SINGAPORE MINISTERIAL IN JULY) ABOUT THIS; BUT SUBSEQUENTLY HE REITERATED HIS
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PLAN TO SEE WIDJOJO IN JAKARTA AT THE END OF MAY TO ORGANIZE OPTIMUM ASEAN REPRESENTATION AT MEETING WITH US. A POSTPONEMENT OF THE SUGGESTED JUNE DATE APPEARS INEVITABLE.

1. SECRETARY PATERNO TOLD EMBOFFS MAY 18 DURING 45-MINUTE LONG CONVERSATION THAT HE HAS NOT YET DONE ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES REGARDING THE US/ASEAN

DIALOGUE, ALTHOUGH HE DID BRIEF THE ASEAN FINANCE MINISTERS AT SECRETARY VIRATA'S DINNER IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE HAD OBTAINED SECRETARY ROMULO'S CLEARANCE ON APRIL 20 FOR ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTRIES' PARTICIPATION IN MEETING WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE ASEAN FINANCE MINISTERS WERE IN MANILA FOR THE ANNUAL ADB MEETING. HOWEVER, PATERNO SAID, HE HAS HAD NO FEEDBACK SINCE THEN AND DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE ASEAN FINANCE MINISTERS HAVE DONE. HE THEREFORE PLANS TO GO TO INDONESIA AT THE END OF THE MONTH TO CONSULT WITH WIDJOJO.

2. PATERNO STATED THAT A FORMAL US/ASEAN MEETING IN JUNE WOULD BE TOO SOON, IN VIEW, I.A., OF HEAVY MAY/JUNE SCHEDULE OF ASEAN MEETINGS, AND WOULD NOT LIKELY BE OF "ANY GOOD." JUNE IS A PARTICULARLY BUSY MONTH BECAUSE OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN JULY AND THE SUMMIT IN AUGUST. ACCORDINGLY, THE GOP INTERAGENCY ASEAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED THAT THE DFA SHOULD SUGGEST TO THE UNITED STATES A POSTPONEMENT OF THE US/ASEAN DIALOGUE. COMMENT: E/C COUNSELOR TALKED WITH MRS. MANALO BY PHONE ON MAY 17, INFORMING HER THAT THE AGENDA WAS ACCEPTABLE AND ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION OF ITEM 6. MRS. MANALO SAID NOTHING ABOUT A POSTPONEMENT AND SIMPLY REPLIED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ASEAN YOUTH MEETING IN MANILA, SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO US ON ITEM 6 UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 23.

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3. E/C COUNSELOR TOLD PATERNO THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS INTERESTED IN INVOLVING THE ECONOMIC MINISTRIES IN THE DIALOGUE, AND IF ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS WERE TO PARTICIPATE, THE US DELEGATION PROBABLY WOULD BE HEADED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD COOPER. PATERNO, RESPONDING SOMEWHAT TOO QUICKLY IN OUR OPINION, SUGGESTED THAT COOPER SHOULD GO AND SEE THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ABOUT THIS AT THE MINISTERIAL IN SINGAPORE IN EARLY JULY. PATERNO THEN CONTINUED THAT THE FIRST MEETING SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE AT THE COOPER LEVEL, UNLESS THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES CHANGE THE PATTERN OF THIRD COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN WHICH HAVE ALL BEEN ON THE DIRECTORS GENERAL OR AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL.

4. IF SECRETARY ROMULO WERE TO HEAD THE GOP DELEGATION AND ACT AS THE ASEAN SPOKESMAN, PATERNO THOUGHT THAT TWO OR THREE ECONOMIC MINISTERS MIGHT SHOW UP. IF UNDERSECRETARY INGLES WERE TO BE THE CHIEF DELEGATE,

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PRS-01 /109 W

-----190536Z 059004 /12

P R 180900Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9905

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 7588

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

AS MRS. MANALO HAS SAID HE WOULD, THEN THE GOP DELEGATION WOULD INCLUDE UNDERSECRETARY OF INDUSTRY GABBY ITCHON OR BOI GOVERNOR CONRADO SANCHEZ, UNDERSECRETARY OF TRADE VICENTE VALDEPENAS AND NEDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MANNY ALBA. PATERNO SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES. PATERNO CHARACTERIZED INGLES AS ONE WHO CAN GO FROM A TO B, AND THEN C TO D, BUT NEVER FROM A TO F.

5. PATERNO THOUGHT THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICES WOULD NOT GIVE UP THEIR PREROGATIVE OF CONDUCTING THE ASEAN THIRD COUNTRY DIALOGUES, AND HE WAS AFRAID THAT THEY WOULD GO OFF ON A TANGENT, SUCH AS THEY DID IN PRESENTING
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THE JAPANESE WITH THE FIVE PRINCIPLES (JAKARTA 3966)
CONCOCTED BY THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE. HE HAD
HEARD THAT THE FIVE PRINCIPLES DID NOT SIT WELL WITH
THE JAPANESE, AND THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO HIM DURING PRES-
IDENT MARCOS' RECENT STATE VISIT TO TOKYO. THE
PRINCIPLES HAD CREATED A CONFRONTATIONAL SITUATION
FOR THE JAPANESE, AND PATERNO SAID THAT THIS WAS NO
WAY TO START A DIALOGUE.

6. HE THOUGHT THAT WIDJOJO MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO THE
ECONOMIC MINISTERS HANDLING THE US/ASEAN CONSULTATIONS,
AND IF SO, WIDJOJO WOULD CONSULT WITH THE GOI FOREIGN
MINISTRY. IF THE LATTER ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE ASEAN/
JAPAN DIALOGUE WAS HANDLED MALADROITLY, THEN IT WAS
POSSIBLE FOR THE US/ASEAN CONSULTATIONS TO BREAK OUT
OF THE USUAL PATTERN OF ASEAN MEETINGS. PATERNO
PROMISED TO DEBRIEF US AS SOON AS HE COMES BACK FROM
HIS INDONESIAN TRIP.

7. COMMENT: GIVEN THE CURRENT LATE DATE AND LIKELY
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, A POSTPONEMENT OF THE US/ASEAN
MEETING APPEARS INEVITABLE. EMBASSY SUGGESTS US
SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A SEPTEMBER OR LATE JULY
DATE BUT REMAIN LOOSE ABOUT OUR LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION
UNTIL WE SEE THE OUTCOME OF PATERNO'S APPROACH TO
WIDJOJO. IT APPEARS TO US FROM PATERNO'S ACCOUNT
ABOVE THAT HE IS RUNNING INTO MORE PROBLEMS THAN HE
PROBABLY ANTICIPATED. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE HAS
BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR ALMOST TWO OF THE
LAST FOUR WEEKS. IN ANY CASE, WE MAY BE FURTHER
ENLIGHTENED WHEN MRS. MANALO RESPONDS NEXT WEEK.
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